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**Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services**

# United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

A total of 25 fellowships on disarmament were awarded both in 2013 and 2014. The programme of studies continues to be structured in three segments. The first was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva and introduced the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. It also included a study visit to Berne organized by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The second segment of the programme comprised study visits to several Member States and international and regional organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament, upon their invitation. Specifically, the fellows visited the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna. At the invitation of the Governments of China, Germany, Japan and Kazakhstan, recipients of the fellowship programme participated in country study visits. The third segment of the programme, which took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York, aimed at familiarizing the fellows with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. In 2013, the programme lasted from 26 August to 24 October. The 2014 programme is scheduled for 27 August to 25 October. In its continuous effort to promote gender mainstreaming, the United Nations selected 22 women to participate in the fellowship programme in 2013-2014, which represents 44 per cent of the total awarded fellowships.

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To date, the programme has trained more than 900 officials from 163 Member States, a large number of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament and international security with their own Governments. The Secretary-General is pleased to note the contribution of the programme of fellowships on disarmament to a greater awareness of the importance of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In addition, the Secretary-General is gratified to note that the number of women nominated fellows has remained high during the present two-year period. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all the Member States and international organizations that have supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success.

# I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 67/68, entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services", the General Assembly, inter alia, commended the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme had continued to be carried out and requested him to continue to implement annually the programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that mandate.

# II. Programme of fellowships on disarmament

## A. Fellowships for 2013 and 2014

2. A total of 25 fellowships were awarded in 2013 to the following officials:

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|---|---|
| Argentina | Juan Francisco Gutierrez Telleria |
| Australia | Corinne Tran |
| Bangladesh | Shelley Salehin |
| Belgium | Sylvain Fanielle |
| Burkina Faso | Wendbigda Honorine Bonkoungou |
| Cameroon | Stéphane Christel Noah |
| Egypt | Ibrahim Said |
| Ethiopia | Huda Mohamed Yusuf |
| Finland | Melissa Elina Emilia Säilä |
| Hungary | Dávid Pusztai |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Mehdi Rouzegir Ghalenoee |
| Japan | Ryota Takemura |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | Pnonenipha Mathouchanh |
| Mexico | Sandra Beatriz Sanchez Aguillon |
| Mongolia | Yadamsuren Bold-Erdene |
| Myanmar | Sann Thhit Yee |
| Pakistan | Syed Atif Raza |
| Philippines | Shirley L. Flores |
| Qatar | Abdulaziz Hamdan Al-Ahmad |
| Republic of Korea | Soo-Yeon Shim |
| Romania | Radu-Constantin Bădită |
| Serbia | Tijana Bokić |
| Ukraine | Samvel Arustamian |

| | |
|---|---|
| United States of America | Jeffrey Gelman |
| Uruguay | Julio Martín Orlando |

3. In 2014, 25 fellowships were awarded to the following officials:

| | |
|---|---|
| Algeria | Larbi Abdelfattah Lebbaz |
| Bhutan | Pem Sedon Thinley |
| Brunei Darussalam | Wen-Jei Lim |
| China | Jinjin Zhang |
| Dominican Republic | Madelin Esther Luna |
| Egypt | Mina Rizk |
| El Salvador | José Roberto Chávez |
| Fiji | Salaseini Tagicakibau |
| Georgia | Vera Khajalia |
| Germany | Daniel Gittinger |
| Ghana | Nana Afia Twum-Barima |
| Guyana | Daniel Griffith |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Mohsen Askarian |
| Madagascar | Johan Andrïa Ramandimbison |
| Montenegro | Pavle Karanikic |
| Morocco | Asmaa Benni |
| Niger | Safia Diallo Mamadou Diallo |
| Nigeria | Imaobong Effiong-Archibong |
| Sri Lanka | Udani Manamperi Gunawardena |
| Switzerland | Christoph Carpenter |
| Togo | Wanou Ankoura Samon |
| Turkmenistan | Feride Muradova |
| United States | Grant William Schneider |
| Viet Nam | Nguyen Dang Trung |
| Zambia | Ng'andwe Anderson Kapaya |

4. Over the years, the efforts by the United Nations to promote gender mainstreaming resulted in a steady ratio in the number of women who were recipients of the fellowship. In 2013-2014, a total of 22 out of 50 fellowships were granted to women.

## B. Programme of studies

5. The United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament is implemented by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2013, the programme lasted from 26 August to 24 October. In 2014, the programme is scheduled for 25 August to 24 October. The programme of studies is structured in three segments: (a) activities at the United Nations Office at Geneva; (b) study visits to Member States and intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament, upon their invitation; and (c) activities at United Nations Headquarters. The activities of the 2013 programme are summarized below. The 2014 programme will generally follow the 2013 syllabus and will contain updates to reflect the recent developments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

**First segment**

6. The first segment of the programme took place at the United Nations Office at Geneva and exposes the fellows to various aspects of multilateral work on disarmament, including potential negotiations, through the work of the Conference on Disarmament and of some Geneva-based research institutions dealing with disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The fellows attended the plenary meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and received briefings on its history, achievements and methods of work. In 2013, the fellows attended briefings/lectures by senior delegates to the Conference on Disarmament from various Member States, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Reaching Critical Will. The fellows were also briefed by the staff of the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Such briefings and lectures covered a wide range of issues, including the Commission's work and issues on its agenda, as well as other disarmament issues, such as the Arms Trade Treaty, the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, information and cybersecurity, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the multilateral disarmament process, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols, and the Biological (Toxin) Weapons Convention. The fellows also attended a seminar on Lethal Autonomous Robotics. A similar programme is being developed for 2014.

7. In addition to the above, the fellows participated in 2013 in a one-day visit to Berne organized by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, during which they were briefed on Swiss foreign and security policies, with a focus on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, disarmament and international humanitarian law, as well as Switzerland's role with respect to the Geneva Declaration of Armed Violence and Development. The fellows also visited Geneva City Hall at the invitation of the Geneva Canton. Similar visits are scheduled for the 2014 programme.

8. While in Geneva, the fellows were also required to conduct research and to write the first draft of a paper on a topic of their choice relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and international security.

**Second segment**

9. The second segment of the programme comprised study visits to several intergovernmental organizations: the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague, as well as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). This segment of the programme also included country study visits to Member States, upon their invitation.

10. During the visit to the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the fellows received comprehensive briefings on the Treaty and the work of the Preparatory Commission. They also participated in the Preparatory Commission's Capacity Development Initiative, a training programme designed to inform and educate future generations of policy, legal and technical experts.

11. The study visit to IAEA comprised attending the Agency's annual General Conference and briefings on the Agency's safeguards system, the security of nuclear materials and radioactive sources and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. A visit to the laboratory in the Department of Safeguards was also included.

12. At OPCW, the fellows were briefed on various aspects of the work of the organization, its contributions to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, the origins and status of implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, its verification procedures, its implementation at the national level, and on issues of international cooperation and assistance. They heard presentations on the organization's work in the elimination of chemical weapons in Syria, including through the joint United Nations-OPCW mission. They also participated in the third Summer Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction jointly organized by the Asser Institute and OPCW.

13. While in Vienna, the fellows visited the OSCE secretariat and were briefed by OSCE officials on the important role played by the organization in maintaining security and in arms control in Europe and beyond.

14. In 2013, the Governments of China, Germany and Japan continued the established practice of inviting participants in the fellowship programme to visit national institutions and to attend lectures given by their Government officials. At the invitation of the Government of Kazakhstan, the fellows visited Kazakhstan for the first time. These country visits provided the fellows with an invaluable opportunity to become acquainted with the respective national policies and practices in the areas of international security and disarmament through lectures, meetings with Government officials and scholars and visits to relevant facilities. In 2014, the Governments of China, Germany and Japan have extended similar invitations.

15. The study visit to Germany in 2013 included briefings by representatives of the Federal Foreign Office and the Institute for International and Security Affairs on a wide range of disarmament and non-proliferation issues. The fellows also visited Nammo Buck GmbH in Pinnow, a plant used for the demilitarization of ammunition, projectiles, rockets, mines, grenades, fuses and pyrotechnical material. During the visit, the fellows were briefed on environment-friendly disposal processes for

conventional weapons, ammunition and explosive products. The study visit to Germany in 2014 will include similar activities.

16. The Government of Japan and the municipalities of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki continued to organize activities for the recipients of the disarmament fellowship in 2013. In Tokyo, the fellows were briefed by officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Japan Mine Action Service, as well as by the Director of the Centre for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-proliferation. In Hiroshima, the fellows visited the Peace Memorial Museum, the Atomic Bomb Dome, and the National Peace Memorial Hall for Atomic Bomb Victims. They were briefed by representatives of Hiroshima City and Mayors for Peace and heard the testimony of a survivor of the atomic bombing. In Nagasaki, the fellows visited the Atomic Bomb Hypocenter and the Museum, the National Peace Memorial Hall for Atomic Bomb Victims, Nagasaki Peace Park and the Nagai Tashika Memorial Museum. They also met with survivors of the atomic bombings and with scholars and doctors involved in the study of the impact of the atomic bombing and its victims. The study visit to Japan in 2014 will include similar activities.

17. The study visit to China in 2013 included briefings by officers of the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by representatives of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association on key disarmament and non-proliferation issues. The fellows also visited the China Institute of Atomic Energy. The study visit to China in 2014 will include similar activities.

18. The study visit to Kazakhstan, which was the first in the programme's history, included a visit to the former nuclear weapons test site in Semipalatinsk and the city of Kurchatov. The fellows received briefings by officials from the Foreign Ministry on Kazakhstan's policy and initiatives in the fields of disarmament, in particular on nuclear disarmament issues. They also visited the Nuclear Society of Kazakhstan.

**Third segment**

19. The third segment of the programme is held at United Nations Headquarters and is intended to familiarize the fellows with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and with the mandate and activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2013, this segment of the programme included a series of lectures by senior staff of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, including the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, on the responsibilities and activities of the Office, as well as briefings by senior diplomats from various delegations on items on the agenda of the First Committee. The fellows regularly attended meetings of the First Committee, and panel discussions organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security.

20. In addition, while in New York, the fellows took part in a simulation negotiation exercise in the context of a preparatory meeting to the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. The exercise included discussion of a draft report, coordination of group positions and the introduction of amendments and the process of negotiations on a final report. During the segment, the fellows were asked to finalize their research papers and to make short presentations on the key findings.

21. At the end of the programme, the fellows were awarded certificates of participation by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

## III. Conclusion

22. Launched in 1979 in follow-up to a decision of the General Assembly taken at its tenth special session in 1978, the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament is aimed at promoting expertise in disarmament in Member States, particularly in developing countries. During its 35 years of operation, the programme has trained more than 900 officials from 163 States. Many alumni hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments and their permanent missions to the United Nations. The large number of nominations for the programme received every year by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the broad support for the biennial resolution on the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services is a testimony to the undiminished interest of Governments in the programme. At the same time, the role of the programme in enhancing the capabilities of young diplomats for participation in arms control and disarmament deliberations and negotiations is recognized and appreciated by Member States.

23. The Secretary-General is pleased to note the contribution of the programme of fellowships on disarmament towards a greater awareness of the importance of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The programme continues to play a decisive role to facilitate a better understanding of the work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and of the other institutions working in the areas of international disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control at the global level, as well as of the security concerns of Member States. In addition, the Secretary-General is gratified to note that the number of nominated women has remained high during the present two-year period.

24. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to all Member States and organizations that have supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success. He extends his particular appreciation to the Governments of China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan and Switzerland for their continued support of the programme. The Secretary-General also extends his grateful recognition to IAEA, OPCW, OSCE and the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for their support to the programme.